

## *Claims Arising During Deployments*

The purpose of this flyer is to inform commanders about preventative measures to take when soldiers are deployed.

### Property shipped to deployment sites:

Whilst deployed, soldiers are often allowed to ship personal property in government transport. When this property arrives damaged or lost, the resulting claim may be cognizable and payable under the claims regulation, provided that the use of the mode of shipment was properly authorized and the claimant can substantiate the loss.

The claimant must prove that he initially possessed the item, that the item was lost, damaged, or destroyed during shipment, and that the loss was not the result of the soldier's negligence (for instance, careless packing).

To insure that soldiers meet the above criteria, the commander should ensure that the property of soldiers who live in the barracks is properly inventoried and secured, and that soldiers prepare inventories of high value items that they carry with them on deployment or that they purchase in the theater of operations. Enclosed is a sample of a personal property inventory. The inventory should be prepared in triplicate and should include a complete description of each separate piece of property with such details as the model, serial number, date of purchase, color, content, and size. The inventory should also accurately indicate the condition of the property. The commander should keep one copy of the inventory in a secure area, provide the second copy to the soldier, and a copy should be given to the claims office at the installation from which the unit deploys.

Be mindful that the claim regulation provides that no payment may be made for items deemed not "reasonable or useful to possess under the circumstances." It is reasonable and useful to transport \$120 worth of CDs in automobiles. Except in rare cases, it is not reasonable or useful to possess more than a limited number of CDs while TDY or on short deployments.

### Property stored at home station:

The same process (inventory) should be required if a unit is planning to leave soldiers' goods in their barracks rooms, in a unit supply room or stored at a commercial facility until they return. The units should provide time and materials for their soldiers to pack all of their property that is being left behind. All boxes should be taped and the owner's name and unit should be marked on each box. Whether stored in the barracks rooms or in a unit supply room, the detachment commander should be required to make periodic inspections for tampering. If soldiers still have the manufacturer's

carton that electronic items were shipped in, then they should use these cartons and packing materials.

#### Storage of POV:

Many soldiers will have to store their privately owned vehicles (POV) during deployment. Some actions should be taken to protect the interests of the soldiers. It is important that a thorough, joint inspection of the exterior and interior of each vehicle be conducted at the time soldiers' POVs are placed in storage. The DD Form 788 can be used for this purpose or a vehicle inspection form that is being used by the claims office. The inspection form should be prepared in three copies, with one being retained by the storage facility manager, one left in the glove box of the POV and one retained by the member.

Soldiers should be warned not to store personal property in their POV other than those items that are normally shipped with a POV when it is transported overseas. (See the "Shipping Your POV" pamphlet at:

<http://www.mtmc.army.mil/frontDoor/0,1865,OID=4--26-9762--9762,00.html>

On post POV storage lots should be secured with a fence and locked gate. Access to the lot should be controlled with sign in sheets to record all who have access. The rear detachment commander, a designated NCOIC, or the military police should be required to make periodic inspections of the vehicles to detect any break-ins, vandalism or theft. Any reports of such incidents should be promptly forwarded to the claims office, Northern Law Center. Damage to vehicles stored at government expense can be paid up to \$20,000.

#### Action upon return from deployment:

On the return of units from the deployment, there should be some control over the return of property. Unit commanders should provide their soldiers a specific time to check the inventory of their goods as they are delivered out of storage. All items should be checked immediately against the inventory. The best evidence that an item was lost in storage would be a report on the day of delivery to someone in the chain of command that an item was missing. Likewise, when vehicles are picked up from a government operated storage lot, there should be a formal, joint inspection of the vehicles exterior, interior and operating systems. All new damage or mechanical problems should be noted at the time of pickup from the storage lot.

**For assistance or additional information**, call the Claims Office at The Northern Law Center, DSN 423-4061 or commercial 065/44.40.61.

**Personal Property Inventory    Page   of   Pages**

Line No.	Qty	Item Description: <b>Brand Name, Model #, Trademark, Size, and any other useful details concerning the item</b>	Original Cost	Month/Year Purchased	Condition of Item (i.e. scratched, cracked, stained, in working condition).
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

**Soldier and unit representative (ISGT/PLT SGT) will conduct inventory together, or unit representative will verify entries after they are listed by soldier. Soldier must list all personal items to be stored or transported, especially high value items, e.g. cameras, stereos, TVs, figurines, etc. Failure to list personal property may result in no payment if that item is lost or damaged. List items individually, do not group items together. For example, do not list (brand name) stereo equipment, but list each item or system, i.e. CD player, speaker, amp; or (brand name) (model #) system (S/N). Items like clothes may be grouped together, i.e. 15 T-shirts, 4 pr Jeans, 2 pr (brand name) tennis shoes, 1 each 20-piece (brand name) set of dishes.**

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**Printed Name, SSN, and  
Property Owner's Signature and Date**

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**Printed Name, Rank and  
Government Inspector's Signature**